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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 12:28 PM  
**To:** [SEPdesk@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPdesk@dfw.wa.gov)  
**Cc:** Scott Nicolai; [johnny@troutwaterfly.com](mailto:johnny@troutwaterfly.com)  
**Subject:** DNS 14-067: YAKIMA RIVER EDGE STRUCTURES - Kittitas County

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to comment in support of the Yakima river Edge Structures project per the attached proposal.

I am the owner of the Troutwater Fly Shop and Guide Service located in Cle Elum, WA. My experience on this reach of the Yakima River spans 21 years. My business provides guided fly fishing and rafting drift trips along this stretch of river. I understand questions exist regarding the amount of public utilization on the section of river along with the potential hazards the project may pose to those who float the section of river.

Our season typically begins in late February and concludes around Thanksgiving. During our season, we utilize this section of river at least once per week and sometimes daily in July and August. Comparatively to other sections of the Yakima River, I would consider the reach above Cle Elum to be very secluded. It is difficult to access and receives little recreational pressure by private parties floating the river. I would estimate there are typically less than four private parties per month who float this section of river from March to November.

In terms of safety, I have never seen a person floating in an inner tube or other unsafe device common to the lower Yakima River canyon below Ellensburg. The people who float this section are in quality rafts with rowing frames or other such crafts and have significant rowing experience. Additionally, the Yakima River is wide and straight in this area making it extremely easy to identify and avoid any danger. Thus, I do not believe a safety issue exist with creating wood structures along the river edge.

From a habitat standpoint, this appears to be a beneficial project. I would describe the river as wide and flat along this stretch. It is visually evident the influence man has had on the river, channeling its flow into one single area to support railroad beds on both sides. Given the large number of salmon that spawn a short distance up stream from the proposed project, any structure along the river banks would support the rearing of young salmon and improve the overall river ecology.

Thank you for considering my comments. I would welcome any questions or need for further clarification.

Sincerely,  
Jim Gallagher

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